

THE RIO NEWS.

PUBLISHED ON THE 5th, 15th AND 24th OF EVERY MONTH.

VOL. XII.

RIO DE JANEIRO, JULY 24TH, 1885

NUMBER 21

OFFICIAL DIRECTORY

AMERICAN LEGATION.—57, Rua das Laranjeiras
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Porto Novo branch from Barra Rio 11.12 a.m.; Cachoeira (S.
Paulo branch) 11.12 a.m.; São Paulo (for S. P. & R.R.) 6
p.m.; Downward, leaves São Paulo 6 a.m.; Lajayette 7.10 a.m.;
Porto Novo 12.40 p.m.; arriving at Barra 4.20 and 12.00
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5.30 p.m.; Cachoeira 6.00 p.m.; Downward, leaves Cachoeira
at 6.40 a.m.; Porto Novo 6.30 a.m.; Barra Rio 10.58 a.m.
arriving at Barra 2.14 p.m. and at Rio at 5.30 p.m.

Limited Express: Upward, leaves Rio at 6.40 a.m.; arriving
at Barra 9.40 a.m.; Porto Novo (central line) 12.00; Cachoeira
(S. Paulo branch) 12.30 p.m.; Downward, leaves Cachoeira 6.30
a.m.; Porto Novo 6.10 a.m.; Barra Rio 12.30 and 12.00 p.m.;
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Mixed Trains: Leave Rio at 8.30 a.m., and 3.00 p.m., the first
going to Barra Rio and the second to Barra do Piraí.

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arriving at Nova Friburgo 12.00; Cordeiro (1 hour
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Return train leaves Macaé 8.30, Cordeiro 8.48 and Nova
Friburgo 12.25 p.m., arriving at Niterói at 4.15 p.m. A
ferry boat runs between Rio and Sant'Anna, connecting with
trains.

CORCOVADO R.R.—Trains leave the Station at Cosme
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Dr. Custodio dos Santos, Surgeon and Physician—
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Dr. Alexandre Colozza—Surgeon and Physician—
Office, Rua Primeiro de Março No. 22. From 1 to 3 p.m.
Residence, Rua de S. Francisco Xavier No. 47.

Dr. W. J. Fairbairn; M. D. Eds.; Surgeon and
Physician. Office: Rua 19 de Março, No. 49; from 11 to
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THE RIO NEWS

PUBLISHED TRIMONTHLY
for the mail packets of the 5th, 15th and 25th
of the month.

A. J. LAMOUREUX, Editor and Proprietor.

Contains a summary of news and a review of Brazilian affairs, a list of the arrivals and departures of foreign vessels, the commercial report and price current of the market, tables of stock quotations and sales, a table of freights and charters, a summary of the daily coffee reports from the Associação Commercial, and all other information necessary to a correct judgment on Brazilian trade.

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RIO DE JANEIRO, JULY 24th, 1885.

THE resumé of proceedings in the General Assembly, which we publish to day, shows that but little of importance has been under discussion since our last report. As was anticipated, the attention of the Chamber has been almost wholly occupied with the government's emancipation project, which has been under discussion in second reading. The first article, which provided for a new registry and valuation of slaves, has been adopted, and the second article is now before the house—but so amended and changed that even its friends can hardly recognize it. After declaring that the government would adhere to that part of the project imposing a surtax of 5% on all revenues except those derived from exports, because such a tax is required to aid and indemnify the planters, the premier has now so far yielded to the demands of some of his supporters as to divide the proceeds of this tax into three parts—one for emancipation, one for interest on the yearly indemnity loans of 6,000,000\$, and one for immigration—and then to empower the government to make such exceptions in the imposition of the tax as it may deem best. This last is designed to pacify the threatened opposition of the Rio Grande and Ceará delegations. Thus mutilated this section possesses no positive character whatever, either good or bad, except the always dangerous authority of imposing a partial and arbitrary tax at pleasure. The attacks on the bill have been exceptionally strong, though too much time has been wasted in repeating certain arguments over and over again. The most important event, however, has been the organization of an out-and-out abolition party of some forty deputies, under the leadership of Sr. Joaquim Nabuco, which has already forced the government into concessions not thought possible at the outset. It is now thought that the bill will pass the Chamber, but its fate is doubtful in the Senate where opposition is already appearing. There have been several unseemly wrangles in the Chamber, and much time has been spent, as usual, in personal explanations and discussions. The much-needed mortgage reform bill is now again before the Senate, and there are expectations that something will at last be done. The deplorable state of the national finances has been but slightly discussed, no one seeming to care to discuss seriously a question so complicated and little understood. It may be said—and with deep regret—that

the finances of Brazil have drifted into such a state that there is not a man in the country who has a clear conception of the dangers which threaten them or the measures urgently required to save them from utter ruin.

THE final act in the measure for the issuing of 25,000,000\$ more of paper money took place at S. Christovão on the 18th instant. With the signature of the Emperor attached the act now becomes law, and we shall have an opportunity to see how it is possible for a government to issue its promissory notes to certain banks, who are its creditors, and at the same time constitute them a loan upon which the aforesaid banks are to pay interest. The balance sheets of four banks of this city show that the Treasury owes them nearly 60,000,000\$, or 7,000,000\$ more than their aggregate paid-up capital, or more than 50 per cent. of their deposits on call and with fixed maturity. That the banks need a great part of this debt for commercial purposes is a well known fact, and that the Treasury has neither the cash nor incoming revenue to meet it is equally well known. The issue of less than half this debt in paper money for the purpose of repaying the banks is therefore a simple and tolerably easy way of cancelling a part of the debt—and nothing else. If it be a loan to the banks, then the Treasury indebtedness to them must remain unliquidated; and we shall see the novel arrangement of two parties being both debtor and creditor to each other and paying each other interest at one and the same time. It will be a new evolution in finance, but it will not altogether conceal the cloven hoof of paper expansion.

THE London Times of the 19th ult. contains an editorial article on the Saraiva emancipation project which merits the thoughtful attention of the government. To those who have followed the progress of emancipation in this country closely, or who have studied it in all its phases carefully, the Times article will convey nothing new, but to others it will be nothing less than a revelation. It will be heartily admitted by all Brazilians that they have had no better friend abroad than the Times, and it will also be seen from a perusal of this last article that there is as yet no change from that spirit of friendliness. When, therefore, the Times is led to express doubt as to the good intentions of the supporters of the Saraiva project, and to express a decided opinion upon the inability of the state to meet the new obligations created by this bill, it must be accepted as friendly caution which the government can not afford to disregard. The time has gone by when official statements are accepted in London without hesitation or doubt; the events of the last few years have taught many an old friend that his confidence had been misplaced, and that affairs were not always going on so smoothly and prosperously as represented. It should be known that Brazilian affairs are now being watched and studied in London as never before, and that every false step will serve to unsettle faith in the continuance of Brazilian credit. If Sr. Saraiva thinks that his project will be accepted abroad as an honest step toward emancipation, let him read the Times and be undeceived.

Among the passengers by the American mail packet *Advance* on the 18th inst. was Ex-Minister Thomas A. Osborn and wife, and Ex-Consul-General C. C. Andrews and wife, who are returning home after a residence in this city during the greater part of the last four years. Both of these retiring officials take with them the sincere respect

and hearty good wishes of the entire community, irrespective of class or nationality, and with these many an expression of sympathy for the reverse of political fortune which returns them again to private life at a time when their services can and must be most useful to their country. The policy of changing officials upon the accession of a new party to power is one which strangers find it difficult to understand and appreciate, and they are very apt to judge such a change solely upon the personal merits of the men affected by it. It is no discourtesy, therefore, to the new American representatives to say that the retirement of Minister Osborn and Consul-General Andrews is not only deeply regretted here, but also the policy which occasions it is heartily condemned. The act of His Majesty the Emperor in conferring the Grand Cross of the Order of the Rose upon Minister Osborn may be justly taken as a fair indication of the appreciation in which that gentleman is held in this city. It is the second time such distinction was ever conferred upon an American diplomatic representative here, and is all the more significant because, unlike the bestowal of such decorations upon the representatives of other governments, there is no possibility of reciprocating it in kind.

The new official representatives of the American government, Minister Jarvis and Consul-General Armstrong, have already received a hearty welcome both officially and privately, and we are confident that their residence here for the next four years will be as pleasant and satisfactory to them and to ourselves as could be wished. The occupation of positions just vacated by popular officials is not always an easy task, but in this case we feel certain that this will not only be done successfully but to the satisfaction of all.

THE new Secretary of State at Washington has recently issued instructions to the diplomatic representatives of the United States to the effect that the foreign-born children of American parents inherit both the citizenship and domicile of the father, and also that foreigners residing permanently in the United States, even though not naturalized, are entitled to all the rights of protection from the government which are accorded by the law of nations to domicile. These two decisions are important ones and will unquestionably give rise to not a little controversy between the United States government and those states where such pretensions are not recognized. The first position is certainly a good one, but it will require very careful management on Secretary Bayard's part to steer clear of a serious inconsistency at the very outset. The American principle has thus far been that the children of alien parents, even when not naturalized citizens, who are born in the United States, are natural-born citizens of that country from the day of their birth. This is also the law in Brazil and other South American countries. If now the State Department at Washington puts forward the claim that the foreign-born children of American parents are to be considered as American citizens, the first rule will require some modification. No country can justly claim rights of such character which it does not grant, nor can any person be legally a citizen of two countries at one and the same time. If it be intended to establish the doctrine that the foreign-born child inherits the father's citizenship with all its political rights, which is evidently the only logical position that can be assumed, then provisions for registry should at once be provided by an Act of Congress, and such registry should be made compulsory. Up to the present time no such provisions have been made, neither for residence, birth, marriage,

nor death. In the American consulate of this city a book has been opened for the registry of Americans residing here, but such registry is purely voluntary and has no legal status. This defect has often been the cause of great trouble in cases growing out of inheritances, which as time goes on will become more and more serious. The second position assumed by Secretary Bayard is a very radical one, and will be very difficult to establish. The American government may very properly undertake to protect an alien in all his civil rights while in the United States, and may also guarantee protection to his property and acquired rights during his absence, but if the alien has never seen fit to assume the privilege of citizenship, which is so easily obtained, it is doubtful propriety for the government of that country to follow him abroad for the sake of offering him the protection which was declined at home.

We are heartily glad that our colleague of the *Revue Commerciale Financière et Maritime* is calling the attention of Europe to the financial position of this Empire. Our circulation being restricted to English speaking communities, and individuals, a demonstration of the position of Brazil in a so universally intelligible language as French cannot fail to both improve the credit of the Empire and—an equally important question—attract immigration to the country. Although, as our colleague says, deficits have reached a total of 850,000,000 francs, this is not to be considered a proof that the country must avail of those resources which a worn-out nation seizes upon to prolong its agony. We agree thoroughly that such resources as a worn-out nation avails of to prolong its agony should not be used; yet it seems to us that this is exactly what the young and vigorous Brazil is doing. With negotiable assets in hand, the government seizes the resource of paper money, about the last straw that a sinking government should catch at. Our colleague bases the greater part of his predictions as to the future greatness of the Empire upon two important conditions. The first is the settlement of the slavery question; the other an assumption of the annual increase in the revenue of the country. The first condition may—or may not—be very shortly settled, and the solution in the opinion of the Bourbons will utterly ruin the country; the second is so extremely hypothetical that it hardly deserves to enter into a serious consideration of the financial future of the country. And we say hypothetical advisedly, for imports being the great contributor to revenue, as we have again and again pointed out, an increase in these can only be produced by an increase in the purchasing powers of Brazil, and if, as is stated, the value of Brazilian exports tends to decrease, where is this increased purchasing power to be sought? Then the debt of the country is estimated to average 200 francs per capita while that of some European nations is three and four times greater. The population of Brazil is estimated at 12,000,000, but of these a very considerable proportion can not enter into statistics based upon European figures, for they are neither producers nor consumers in a strict sense of the word, but mere cyphers in a census. Can our colleague claim that a caboclo with his food and raiment can enter into an economic calculation as an equivalent for a French farmer? The one producing barely sufficient for his sustenance, and the other every year saving something for his own and for the benefit of his country? We think not. The same venerable calculation of a debt per capita has again and again been produced to prove that Brazil is about the only nation that could in reason increase its national debt, because the proportion is

so ridiculously small. Foreigners basing their calculations on other countries may be led astray by such declarations; we the dwellers in this Empire have no right to announce such erroneous statistics. Brazil is not now, nor is she likely soon to be, in a sound or improving financial position. Years of the strictest economy and of persistent refusals to listen to the siren songs of *axe grinders* are both requisite and necessary; years of humiliation, of sackcloth and of ashes are possible, before the incapacity, the want of thought and the improvidence of the Brazilian statesmen can be settled for, and the country must prepare itself for these humiliations and sacrifices. We hope with our colleague that the maximum of charges upon the Treasury is about reached; if it is not we give up any solution of present embarrassments. We hope with our colleague that the great proportion of our food, now imported, may be produced in the country. We hope that the prices of our exports have touched, or nearly touched, bottom. We hope that cacao, cinchona, tobacco and Pará chestnuts may all prove valuable factors in producing the means of settling foreign balances, and that our coffee may enter into free competition with Javas and Ceylons. Finally, with our colleague we hope, that with economy, good administration and a little less affection for sterile political discussions, Brazil will in a few years rival the United States in prosperity, our climate and soil offering greater resources than those of the Republic. We say we hope for all these: "hope long deferred, maketh the heart sick."

SENATOR COREIA, the indefatigable, has elicited from the Treasury officials a statement of the amounts and rates of exchange taken, and the commissions paid, for a period extending from June 1884 to April 1885. From this it appears that the government in that period took the following amounts from the banks specified:

Banco Commercial.....	£1,320,000
Banco do Brazil.....	783,000
English Bank.....	360,000
New London and Brazilian..	210,000

£2,673,000

The rates varied according to the market, and the difference between these and the par of 27d caused a loss to the Treasury of 9,138,905\$, besides which appears an item of 253,470\$ commissions paid to the following banks:

Banco Commercial.....	201,882\$
Banco do Brazil.....	51,588

253,470\$

This makes a total difference between the cash disbursed for the sterling taken and the value at par of 9,392,375\$. An examination into this table furnishes strong proofs that the Treasury does not manage its exchange operations in a business-like manner and there must have been good reasons for employing the Banco Commercial to so considerable extent as that it furnished one-half of the total exchange taken. We presume that this bank acted as an endorser for exchange taken by it in the market and by it turned over to the Treasury at the same rates, or else how can the important sum of 202,000\$ commission paid the bank be explained? In fact the bank would seem to have acted as the Treasury broker and guarantor of the remittances made. That this creates a preference which is unjust to the other banks is clear, and for this there can be but one explanation, viz: that the terms of payment were not satisfactory to the competitors of the favored bank. The Treasury could as easily have taken satisfactory market bills as the Banco Commercial could, and the guarantee, we may confidently assert, was more or less nominal. If it were otherwise the responsibility assumed by the bank

was greatly out of proportion to its resources and had matters become critical and any great part of the exchange returned the result could not have been other than deplorable. As it happens the government, it seems to us, has incurred an utterly unnecessary expense and has shown a partiality that, all conditions being equal, can not be too strongly condemned. It is perfectly clear to all who are in contact with our money market, that the only correct manner in which the exchange operations of the government can be carried on, is for the Treasury to appear openly as a taker of all such bills as are of satisfactory character, and that such bills are obtainable in Rio no one can be hardy enough to deny. If the Treasury requires facilities in the matter of payments, we venture to say that the brokers would be able to arrange this and the great advantage would result that the Treasury would have no brokerages nor commissions to pay, or it could have saved 250,000\$ which was expended uselessly. Moreover, as we have had occasion to point out, the bank favored by the Treasury is not a specialist in the business of exchange. It does an important banking business; its directors are gentlemen who have gained a competence in trade and commerce in Rio, but are unquestionably to a great extent unacquainted with the more extended study of financial movements. How then, we ask, can an institution directed by retired merchants of Rio compete with institutions managed by young men, who have been brought up to banking, and are directed by boards seated in the capital of the financial world? We have no intention of offending persons, but our argument is based upon common-sense and its refutation will be difficult, if not impossible. The Treasury has no right to create a preference in its exchange operations. The banks and the brokers should have free access to the minister of finance and the most favorable offer be accepted. The groping and wandering policy of late governments calls for a decisive change, and Senator Correia has done a service to the public in bringing to the light of day what appears to be a very questionable policy on the part of the authorities. We are advocating no new idea. Under former administrations the Treasury appeared openly in the market as a taker, and it appears no less apparently, when the operations of any one bank can be directly traced to government necessities. If it be objected that the extra labor involved in conferring bills with letters of credit is avoided by a commission to a guarantor, the answer is ready. Surely, there must be sufficient Treasury employes to execute this trifling service, or if there be not, a bank properly managed would scarcely demand so important a commission as one farthing per milreis which has been paid. Bank rates and commercial rates are frequently only 1/16 d. apart; a farthing on present rates of exchange seems to us exorbitant; yet this has been granted to the Banco Commercial by the Treasury to no earthly use, as we think we have clearly demonstrated.

THE PASSPORT QUESTION.

To the Editor of the Rio News.

I was much interested in your comments, published on the 15th, respecting the abuses of the passport system in this city, and the action of the chief of police with relation to passport brokers. Permit me to call attention to another phase of the question. The brokers, as you very properly remark, could not have existed had there been no demand for their services, and this demand was due, in part, to the vexatious delays which travellers experience if they deal directly with the police officials. Many persons are glad to pay a few milreis to a

go-between rather than waste their time in waiting about the police office.

But the demand is still more largely due to a feature which seems to be inseparable from all police business at Rio—I mean the want of common courtesy among the subordinate officials, with whom the business of visiting passports rests. I know that police offices all over the world are open to similar charges; it may be supposed that the officials are so accustomed to dealing with rascals that they come to consider all mankind as tainted with rascality. If that be the case, in justice to honest men the business should be taken out of the hands of these officials, and placed with persons of more optimistic views.

The passport system is, no doubt, a remnant of feudalism, and it would be better to do away with it altogether; but so long as it exists its objects should be honestly carried out. I leave New York with a passport which is, or purports to be, an official letter from the government of the United States to government officials in Brazil, or elsewhere; this paper is a presumptive proof that I am an honest man and should have an honest man's privileges. Arrived in Rio, as in duty bound, I call at the police office to present my letter, and in doing so I show that I am disposed to submit to all formalities which may be required of a foreigner travelling in Brazil. I am received by a man who is socially and intellectually my inferior, who snatches this respectable document from my hand, glances over it as though it were an indictment, eyes me as he might an escaped criminal, and orders me to be remanded for sentence until to-morrow. If I do not understand Portuguese, the ignorance is added to my crime and I become a hard-earned offender. If I venture to urge that my time is limited, I get a preliminary sentence in Portuguese billingsgate; if I expostulate, I am stormed out of the office.

Now, Mr. Editor, this is not a fancy picture; it is a pretty exact description of the sufferings I have actually gone through on five or six occasions, and which I propose to avoid in future by employing a passport broker, if I can find one. Let it should be supposed that my ill-reception was due to my own ignorance or pig-headedness, I will add that, during many years of travel in Brazil, I have never, except in this instance, had occasion to complain of government officials; in the custom-houses, post-offices and departments, at Rio and elsewhere, I have invariably been treated with courtesy, and if, at times, there have been vexatious delays in business, I clearly understand that the fault lay with the red-tape system so much in vogue here, and not with officials who are only instruments of their system. As for the police officers in question, I have never approached them except with respect, have never answered them discourteously, and as I have a fair knowledge of the Portuguese language, there was no occasion for misunderstanding. Only once, a few months ago, after three minutes conversation with the most villainous-looking and villainous-acting official I ever met, I said: "Why do you treat me like a thief? I am an honest man." In answer, he threw down my passport, turned his back on me with a snort, and began to abuse a poor devil of an immigrant who was waiting, hat in hand; the immigrant, an Italian, understood only that he was unjustly treated, his face reddened with honest anger, and, turning on his heel, he walked away without a word.

Several years ago it chanced that I was able to render some slight services to an American who had become entangled in the meshes of the Rio police office. He was a stereotyper, and had come to Rio with his family, purposing to carry on his trade

here. Some official in the custom-house took it into his head that the stereotyping tools were to be used in manufacturing counterfeit money, and they were seized accordingly; the man, a simple, rather helpless character, was utterly confounded at this unlooked-for reception. The matter was explained, and the tools were given up, the custom-house officials being abundantly convinced of their mistake. But the police department, having cognizance of the matter, persisted in regarding the man with suspicion, and he was subjected to many petty annoyances, the more troublesome because he knew nothing of Portuguese and could not explain. Disgusted at length with his situation, he managed to scrape enough money together to pay for a second-class passage home; but at the last moment the police refused to let him go. In danger of losing not only his time but the passage-money which he had paid, he appealed to me for help; I did what I could for him, but the required permission was only granted on a peremptory demand from the American consul. I have met the man, since then, in New York; he speaks of Brazil with horror, and does all he can to prevent Americans from going there.

I write this in all friendliness to the country, which is by no means fairly represented in the police tyrants. Unfortunately, foreigners get their first impressions through this very unfavorable medium, and first impressions are apt to endure. In fact, the police officials are part of a somewhat extensive arrangement by which Brazil is actively engaged in cutting off its own nose.

F.

RIVER PLATE ITEMS.

From the Buenos Aires Herald, 8th July.

—Money to pay the debt service for the rest of this year has been sent to London.

—The postmaster general has ordered from the American Bank Note Company 2 million stamps of 4 cents and 2 million of 2 cents.

—Captain Elchichuri left, on Saturday, for Tucuman, with 113 Indians and their families, who will be placed in various sugar establishments. They were guarded by six soldiers. It would be interesting to know under what conditions these well-guarded "agriculturists" are to work.

—Every one is laughing at the *South American Journal* on Santos, who was "called to the Presidency by unanimous acclamation." We are not surprised that our native colleagues cry "shame" on such stuff.

—In two months and ten days the Jesus Maria colony, comprising 4 sq. leagues, in Santa Fé, has been settled with 80 families. The land has been fractioned in lots of 20 squares, obtaining an average price of \$30,000 m/n per league. Ten years ago the land in which this colony is established was valued at 1000 m/n per league.

—It would seem that when the government agrees to arbitrate a case or claim, it would be in honor bound to accept the results. This is a mistake as the case of the *Galileo* shows that the government accept only when it is their favor, but repudiate when not. In the commercial world this would be called by a bad name.

—During the month of June, 1665 immigrants entered the immigrants' hotel. They arrived in 17 ocean steamers, 1327 being Italians, 108 Spaniards, 101 Frenchmen, 65 Austrians, 23 Germans, 38 Swiss, 1 English, 1 North American and one Norwegian. There were 215 women and 191 children. 1334 were agricultural labourers.

—When Congress gets hold of the message and the Dr. Pellegrini contract, there will be fun in Congress. Not because they who will oppose it would have done better, but because presidential politics are on the stage.

—Ferrari is in doubt whether to go on longer with his opera, or leave. Get out, Ferrari, by all means.

—This (5th) is the anniversary of the repulse of the English attack on Buenos Aires seventy-eight years ago, and in Santo Domingo church a *Te Deum* will be sung in celebration of this crowning mercy, by which the development of the resources of the country was delayed for seventy years, during which period, by the kind disposition of Providence, the Argentine people have been given up as a prey to fifteen little kings and their satellites.

—According to a provincial contemporary, a black woman named Jacinta has just concluded to die at Rio Verde at the advanced age of 150 years. She could sew, and enjoyed good health up to the last. This is the best story, except one, yet received. The next will be awaited with no slight anxiety. If there is one thing more than another that we enjoy, it is the sight of an ague-stricken, yellow visaged, calaverous, this side-of-fifty eldier inventing stories of extreme old age in order to deceive himself and others about the healthfulness of the place in which he is living.

RAILROAD NOTES

—The April traffic receipts of the D. Pedro II railway were 873,152\$205 and expenses 524,980\$876.

—The surveys of the Macahé extension of the Cantagallo railway were completed on the 12th inst. The distance surveyed is said to be 57 kilometers.

—The May traffic of the Itauna railway left a balance of 4,522\$550 on the trunk line and 11,856\$400 on the branch. The balance for five months is 134,934\$910.

—The Cantagallo railway, owned by the province of Rio de Janeiro, traffic receipts for the first half of 1885 were 675,347\$270 and expenses 469,055\$184. For the same period of 1884 receipts were 599,815\$716 and expenses 549,770\$465.

—The May receipts of the Rio Claro and S. Carlos do Pinhal railway were 32,356\$450 and the expenditures 17,288\$615, leaving a surplus of 15,067\$835. The construction works on the projected extension of this line are to be begun on the 30th inst.

—The government has accorded permission to the São Paulo Railway Co. to change the system of passenger cars now in use on that line. The change, if it be a total abolition of the present compartment system, will be heartily appreciated by the travelling public.

—The traffic receipts for the six months, January-June last, of the Príncipe do Góio-Paia were 353,050\$660 and expenses were 158,123\$171. Passengers contributed 181,185\$520, goods 132,472\$260. The receipts show an increase over the same period of last year of 38,410\$260.

—The minister of agriculture has called the attention of the fiscal engineer of the Paraná railway to the fact that the salaries of only such employees as are in actual service are chargeable to traffic expenses, and not the maximum salaries as fixed by the table; further that, by an *arbitrio* of 1883, subscriptions to newspapers may not be charged to traffic expenses.

—The minister of agriculture advises the fiscal engineer of the Great Western railway that the government having allowed the company to expend 100,000\$ in rolling stock, to be charged to running expenses during two years, it cannot consent to the company turning a reserve fund at the cost of the state. A clause in the decree granting the concession fixes that $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. on the capital may be charged to running expenses for reserve fund, when the revenue of the road does not exceed 7 to $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent; we cannot see therefore how the minister can cancel this clause because the company was authorized to increase its rolling stock.

LOCAL NOTES

—Another disciple of the idea of banks of issue is O País.

—A bill in Portuguese: If it yet was in existence, O Brazil (newspaper) would to-day complete its second year!

—The Ferrari opera company arrived from Buenos Aires on the 19th by the French packet *Orénoque*. The company comprises 174 persons.

—All the theatres of the city are to be connected with the central fire station by telephone lines. It is said that this step was suggested by the Emperor.

—How our colleague of the *Gazeta de Notícias* arrives at the conclusion that an exhibit by Brazil at a Buenos Aires exposition will attract immigration, is a thing no fellow can understand.

—The *Jornal do Commercio* of the 16th extracts a notice, from a Nithenby paper that an opposition ferry company is in contemplation between Rio and Praia Grande.

—The anniversary of the taking of the Bastille was duly celebrated on the 14th inst. by the French colony of this city. The local press also devoted the customary space and compliment to the occasion.

—The number of employees of the telegraph department is to be increased so that the electric fire alarms may be examined every day. His Majesty the Emperor is credited with this new undertaking.

—Gina's baby in duplicate. The police found two children, aged respectively 1 and 3 years, lost in the streets. The mother was sent for, but she declared that having 5 children she could not support them and set them adrift.

—There was a row the other day on a Swedish vessel called the *Fritiof*. The *Gazeta de Notícias* makes the name *Tritiof*; the *Diário de Notícias* gets it *Fritiof*; *O País* calls it *Trelliof*; and finally the *Jornal* says the name is *Skuteren Fritiof*. We sympathize with the captain.

—Colony cloud is Portuguese for *Clan McLeod*.

—What is *tamporec* that Mr. Slater puts on his telegraph forms?

—H. B. M. ship *Ruby* arrived here on the 17th inst. from St. Vincent.

—The U. S. S. *Nipsic* arrived here on the 18th from Montevideo via Sta. Catharina.

—The American packet *Finance* is due at this port on the 2nd prox.

—By decree of the 18th inst. Sr. Antonio Joaquim de Fontoura Xavier was appointed consul at Baltimore.

—The Engenho Velho Club gives one of its most enjoyable concerts and receptions at its club rooms, Rua de Haddock Lobo, on Saturday evening next.

—O País hears that Sir John Hawkshaw is to be invited to superintend the works at the Rio Grande do Sul bar. Has Dr. Bicalho thrown up the sponge?

—A French boy wanted to commit suicide because his parents would not allow him to learn piano playing. We would have relieved him at once. A pianist is our natural enemy.

—The abuse of tickets in our streets is a nuisance at all times, but in Campos the tickets are absolutely dangerous. One loaded with dynamite fell on a house there and destroyed part of the roof, besides scaring the inhabitants out of their wits.

—The regular fortnightly concert of the Beethoven Club takes place this evening and the seventh lecture of Dr. Ferreira Vianna on "Aesthetics" on Saturday evening, at the Club's concert rooms, Rua da Gloria.

—The United States has awarded the contract for printing postage stamps for the ensuing four years to the American Bank Note Co. at a total cost of \$103,959.61 per annum. The price charged for ordinary stamps is 6.99-100 cents per thousand.

—A number of Portuguese immigrants, 15 men, 12 women and 20 children, applied to the consular office for relief on the 17th. They claim that their contracts are informal and illegal and that they do not wish to go on to Tanlaté, which was to be their destination.

—Our colleague of the *Diário de Notícias* thinks it odd that the Chinese should have waited until peace was declared before ordering two ironclads built at Kiel to proceed to China. We do not, for had they been at sea during hostilities the French would have gobbled them *non solute*.

—A correspondent of a daily colleague is severe on the legation at Lisbon, and would like to see it *en grand complet* with military and naval attachés *et d'anne genus*. By all means let the government accede to the ideas of the correspondent; the state employs entirely too few attachés and employés.

—The verberations and re-verberations that the passport question is suffering from the daily press would be extremely satisfactory, were it not that it has taken such an unconscionable time for this same press to discover the absurdity of taking out a passport to go by sea to Santos, when one can go by rail without any such formality.

—The Florida, U. S., fruit-growers have made arrangements in New York for the sale of 400,000 boxes of oranges during the next season. When it is considered that orange growing in Florida is an exotic industry and has been carried on for but a few years, this result is one which commands widespread attention. In view of this accomplished result, what might not be done in Brazil if the same spirit and energy were displayed? Will the defenders of the old system give the matter just a moment's thought?

—There was quite a little flutter in the Brazilian section of the Antwerp exposition on the 19th ult., the occasion being a visit from no less a personage than the sister of the King of Spain. This important event seems to have stirred up the waning interest in Brazil's one great product, for on the following day the president of the fair came in and drank a cup of coffee, and then two English journalists at once set themselves at work and wrote up a couple of articles praising the physiological properties of pure Brazilian coffee. And well they might, for it is very little known in their own country! The crowning triumph of the Brazilian section, however, is due to the action of the grand lottery commission, presided over by Count de Beaufort, which has visited the Brazilian exhibit for objects to be given as special prizes. Their choice fell upon: 1st, a little box ornamented with the Brazilian coat of arms and the symbolic words "Centro da Lavoura e Commercio do Rio de Janeiro," containing six phials of *crème de café* and six others of *licor de mate*; 2nd, a box of Bahia cigars; 3rd, an atlas of Brazil; and 4th, Sant'Anna Nery's *Days of the Amazon*. All these prizes were chosen by Count de Beaufort in person, which reflects great credit upon that gentleman's good judgment and an additional lustre upon these important products of Brazil.

—The Rio section of the Lisbon Geographical Society is proposing to initiate an exploration of the Serra da Mantiqueira.

—According to news received by some of our colleagues, the Brazilian minister at Rome has been expelled from a club for cheating at cards, and for this reason was afterwards excluded by royalty from a diplomatic banquet.

—When we go into classical parallels, e.g. *Ramesses* (vide last NEWS), our colleagues always cap us. The *Jornal* takes the cake with a reference to *Odipus* and the Sphinx.

—The Bustamante gas contract scandal has been quietly suppressed. There are no more accusations, recantations, or protestations of private and public virtue. It was evidently a case which neither side cared to have investigated.

—One must not work after hours in our public departments. The attorney of the Câmara Municipal with the praiseworthy intention of expelling his work was precisely locked in the Chamber and obliged to apply to the police by means of a passer-by to be released.

—We have sought in vain for some notice of the soap that formed so prominent a feature at the Antwerp exposition. A visitor there assured us that soap was a prominent feature, as in lots of three cakes to a pile the room was pretty well surrounded by it.

—We regret to note that our enterprising contemporary *O País* has dropped his Pernambuco cable news, and has settled down to a republication of the *Nacion* dispatches just as the other city papers are doing. The enterprise displayed by our daily colleagues is something truly unique. Could not some way be devised to make a display of it at Antwerp?

—The *Sociedade Central de Imigração* has appealed to the directory of the Banco do Brazil to shake off its somnolency and proceed to divide the plantations it holds into lots. The appeal should certainly not be necessary for the interests of the shareholders might have long ago pointed out this action. The bank has an excuse, however; the wonderful delay in reforming the mortgage law.

—Our local exchanges tell us that Lord Randolph Scheichell has been re-elected Member of Parliament from Wootstock and Mr. Robbers, the new American minister, has presented his credentials to the Chilean authorities. That the United States should send a hand, in duplicate, to Chili is odd, but we are faint from our attempts to discover who may be Lord Randolph Scheichell and where Wootstock may lie.

—The banquet given to Comptroller Dantas by the members of his cabinet, on the 15th inst., the anniversary of his emancipation project, was enthusiastic and offered an opportunity for the enunciation of decided abolitionist opinions. The principal editor of the *Jornal*, if his speech is correctly reported, declared that whatever cabinet passed the law, in the Dantas cabinet would belong the glory of having proposed the bill. Good for Dr. Castro! Sundry free papers were granted to slaves.

—We see by Sunday's *Jornal do Commercio* that the government transport *Puriti* did not start out on a trip to Ilha Grande because of the *grande temporal* which had raged outside the day before. So far as a landsman could see, or a fisherman feel, there was no storm whatever in the neighborhood; but possibly the government sailors have a keener sense of atmospheric disturbance than most people. Most people, however, have a tolerably keen sense of the ridiculous, which these Rua do Ouvidor sailors should not forget.

—The annual report of the foundlings hospital (*casa dos expostos*) of this city, gives the following results for the fiscal year 1884-85:

No. of foundlings in hospital 30th June, 1884	164
No. received during the year	214
No. returned	36
No. given out during the year	184
No. of deaths	77
No. remaining 30th June, 1885	153

Of those left in the "wheel" 15 were dead and 40 were gravely ill.

—Those who have more money than they know what to do with, or who wish to while away the happy hour before exchange goes down to 16 and the summer dream of the patriotic optimist is rudely dispelled, will find a very fine opportunity to spend a small fortune by subscribing for the impending season of Italian opera. Manager Ferrari's modest demands are, for 12 representations: 1st-class boxes 700\$; 2nd-class boxes 450\$; 1st class and balcony chairs 140\$; 2nd-class chairs 70\$. The unhappy individual whose modest income will permit but one night's dissipation, will of course pay more proportionately than the above. There will probably be a few auctions during the next few days to enable the regular opera-goers to raise means enough to make Ferrari happy.

—The announcement was made in the Chamber of Deputies on the 20th inst. that the Visconde de Silva Figueira, has liberated 200 slaves, but on condition of their serving him six years. All sexagenarians, however, are to have their freedom without condition.

—We are in receipt of the first number of a new weekly, entitled *O Nacional*, which proposes to advocate national ideas and reforms. The objects are certainly worthy ones and deserve champions everywhere. Our new colleague has every good wish for its success.

—The recent appointment of a former republican to the Baltimore consulate, who once wrote some poetry against the Emperor, brought Deputy Martin Francisco to the front on Wednesday last with a patriotic remonstrance. It would seem, however, that the poetry was not the only reason, as the illustrious Paulista also complains that the new appointee once injured him personally by telegraphing news of his death.

—A few days ago a couple of gentlemen, wishing to examine the new cuttings near the top of the Corcovado, presented themselves at the Corcovado railway station and asked for tickets to the summit. They were told that none but excursion tickets are sold for the summit, which, of course, they declined to take. Aside from the extraordinary charges made on this railway, it seems to us that its management is one of the least accommodating that has ever come within our experience. The officials and employees of the line seem to have about as much conception of railway management and their duties in the public on which they depend for support, as a party of Guarany Indians would have. It is fortunate, perhaps, that the company has so intelligent and experienced a railway man as Dr. Passos at its head, else there is no telling what enormities the public might not be compelled to suffer.

MANGABEIRA RUBBER.

Jornal do Commercio 16th July.

We mentioned some time ago that a new industry was attracting attention at Rio Pardo, Minas Geraes; namely the production of rubber from the milk of the *mangabeira*, a tree of the family of *Lapocnee* and very common there, as well as in the north of the empire. According to a letter written from the city (Rio Pardo), at first only the fruit was used, but later it was proved that the milk, very abundant in the trees and which may be extracted in the same manner as in use with the *Syphonia Elatior*, by incisions, becomes readily converted into excellent rubber, equal if not superior to, as we are assured, that produced in the Amazonas. Further, it is stated, that the preparation is very easy, for if 85 grammes of alum dissolved in three litres of pure water, be added to three litres of the milk, coagulation is perfectly secured and rubber obtained which should be exposed to the sun for a few days. The latter states that a jug (*garrafa*) of this milk sold in Rio Pardo at 200 to 250 reis and that many people are employed in its extraction; also that the first shipment of rubber had been made to Bahia; it weighed 250 arrobas and the result is anxiously awaited. We further learn that Sr. João de Vasconcellos, sub-delegate of police at the city of Serra, also in Minas Geraes, has just sent to the department of agriculture a sample of rubber taken from the same tree in the north provinces of the district. Is a remunerative interest in question? Will mangabeira rubber meet the wants of the trade? Will the result of the first shipment to Bahia decide these questions, or at least indicate what degree of usefulness these experiments will show. Unhappily we have no information respecting this, which we would gladly receive.

COMMERCIAL

Rio de Janeiro, July 23rd, 1885

Par value of the Brazilian mil reis (5000), gold 27 d.	
do do do in U. S.	
coin at 84 84 per £1 sig.	54 45 cts.
do 81.00 (U. S. coin) Brazilian gold.	53 19
do of £1 sig. in Brazilian gold.	8 89
Bank rate of exchange on London to-day	17 1/2 d.
Present value of the Brazilian mil reis (paper), 600 rs. gold	
do do do in U. S.	
coin at 84 80 per £1 sig.	35 75 cts.
Value of \$1.00 184.80 per £1 sig. in Brazilian	
currency (paper)	2 77
Value of £1 sterling	134 46

EXCHANGE.

July 14.—Market very firm at unchanged posted rates viz: 17 1/2 on London, 530-531 on Paris, 657-658 on Hamburg at 90 dls and 8840 on New York at sight. Head office bills were quoted at 17 1/2-18 1/2 and commercial sterling at the extremes of 18 1/2-18 3/4. Not much doing. Sovereigns closed with sellers at 138 3/4, no buyers.

July 15.—Rates were advanced to 18 on London, 529-530 on Paris, 652-653 on Hamburg at 90 dls and 8840 on New York at sight. Commercial paper was still quoted at 18 1/2-18 3/4. Sovereigns closed with buyers at 138 3/4, sellers at 138 3/4.

July 16.—Rates were unchanged, but the market was considered easier under rather alarming advices from London. Commercial paper was still quoted at 18 1/2-18 3/4. Sovereigns closed with buyers at 138 3/4, sellers at 138 3/4.

July 17.—There were no rates posted until late in the afternoon when the English banks fixed 17 1/2 on London, 530-531 on Paris and 657 on Hamburg at 90 dls, and 8840 on New York at sight. Market at a standstill and commercial paper nominal. Sovereigns closed with buyers at 138 3/4, sellers at 138 3/4.

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July Departures:*To New York:*

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Dillon..... 25th*To Southampton:*Orion..... July 15th
Gabbon..... 29th*For Other Ports:*Drott Southampton and Liverpool July and
Cruiser Antwerp and Liverpool..... 11th*To Rio Grande Ports:*Carnon..... Every
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" 27	Minho	Santos.
" 29	La Plata	Montevideo and Buenos Ayres.
Aug. 2	Trent	Southernport and Antwerp, calling at Bahia, Macao, Pernambuco, Lisbon and Vigo.
" 17	Minho	New York, calling at Barbadoes and St. Thomas.

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